

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims of the subject application by canceling nonelected claims 11-15, 21, and 22 and amending claim 1, 4, 5, 9, and 16 as follows:

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1. (Currently AMENDED) A highly compact and portable absorbent article comprising:
a packaging; and
~~an~~ a compressed absorbent article ~~reconfigurable~~ reconfigured from a normal condition to a compressed condition;
said absorbent article having three dimensions at least one of which is reduced when said absorbent article is in said compressed condition;
said absorbent article occupying a volume of space that is reduced by at least about 30% when said absorbent article is reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition; and
said compressed absorbent article being retained by said packaging ~~when in said compressed condition.~~

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2. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said packaging is configured to retain at negative pressure said compressed absorbent article ~~when compressed.~~

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said compressed absorbent article is reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition by negative pressure.

6. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

7. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

8. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said compressed absorbent article is a diaper.~~

10. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CANCELED)

13. (CANCELED)

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CANCELED)

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16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for packaging an absorbent ~~articles~~ article so that the absorbent ~~articles are~~ article is compact and portable, said method comprising the steps of:
providing an absorbent article, the absorbent article occupying a volume of space in three dimensions;
reconfiguring the absorbent article such that the volume of space is reduced by at least 30%;
retaining the absorbent article when reconfigured within a packaging.

17. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

18. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

19. (ORIGINAL) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said retaining step comprises the step of:
packaging the reconfigured absorbent article at negative pressure.

20. (ORIGINAL) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said providing step comprises the step of providing a disposable diaper.

21. (CANCELED)

22. (CANCELED)